

ANNUAL REPORT of Dr. O. L. Appleton,
 Medical Officer of Health,
 for the year ended 31st December, 1946,
 in accordance with
 Ministry of Health Circular 13/47 (England)
 dated 13th March 1947.

SECTION - A

<u>Area</u>	72,070 acres
<u>Population (estimated)</u>	10,400
<u>Number of inhabited houses at end of 1946, according to Rate Books</u>	2180
<u>Rateable value for whole District</u>	£33,368
<u>Product of penny rate</u>	£139
<u>Vital statistics</u>	None available

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SECTION - BGENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

The Public Health staff now consists of one Senior Sanitary Inspector and one Assistant Sanitary Inspector. The appointment of an additional Officer has been of material assistance.

SECTION - CSANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water (i) Owing to the wet summer there has been no serious shortage of water, even in shallow wells.

A number of water samples taken for analysis, indicated water of poor quality, and in some cases unfit for drinking purposes. In view of this it is gratifying to learn that the County Council have approved in principle a scheme for a Regional Water Supply, on the lines proposed by the Council's Consultant Engineer, details of which are now in course of preparation. At present only 17% of the houses in the District are serviced with a piped water supply, which clearly indicates the necessity for a general scheme for the whole District.

(ii) Water for piped supplies is purchased in bulk, and bacteriological examinations and chlorination are carried out by the suppliers concerned.

(iii) The water supplied is not affected by any plumbago solvent action.

(iv) There has been no form of contamination in the piped water supplies.

(v) (See Schedule at end of Report.)

Drainage and Sewerage. This remains much the same as in previous years, although a large number of vaults and ash pits have been replaced by sanitary pails and dustbins.

In addition a number of cesspools found to be leaky, overflowing, or of inadequate size, have been dealt with. Consideration has been given to the construction of a new sewage disposal plant for the village of Castleacre. Preliminary work, in the nature of plans and levels, has been undertaken, although temporarily held over until the question of labour and materials becomes less acute.

Scavenging. Towards the latter part of the year a report on a proposed scavenging of the District was presented to the Council and adopted. The Report recommended the purchase of a new 750-gallon mechanical cesspool and night-soil emptier, and the employment of a further two full-time Scavengers for regular refuse collection of the whole District. The adoption of the report and the inauguration of the Scheme shows a progressive spirit and is to be commended.

SECTION - D

Housing. Building Licences are still required for repair work of £10 and over, with the result that except for most urgent repairs, other defects have to remain over until the supply of labour and materials becomes less acute. The rural housing survey of the District (as recommended in the Hobhouse Report) continues, 1100 houses having been inspected. A complete record of the survey to date reveals the urgent need for all haste in the Council's re-housing programme, as a large number of the dwellings inspected have been classified as in need of major repairs, and in some villages a very high percentage have been earmarked for demolition.

During the year three Swedish timber houses were completed by the Council and five houses erected by private enterprise.

Milk. By mutual arrangement with the County Council, the duties delegated to the Council for the milk sampling of designated herds were forfeited, and this work is being done by the County Council's Staff. As regards ordinary cow-keepers (i.e., non-designated herds) the number on the Council's Register amounts to 104.

Efforts are being made to establish a standard of purity for ice-cream, and also a minimum standard of fitness for all premises where this commodity is manufactured for sale. Owing to the large sale of this commodity, such steps are of the utmost importance.

SECTION - E

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Disease	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	Nil	-	-
Scarlet Fever	17	7	-
Diphtheria	1	1	1
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	Nil	-	-
Pneumonia	Nil	-	-
Erysipelas	Nil	-	-
Ophthalmia	Nil	-	-
Measles	65	1	-
Whooping Cough	12	-	-
Cerebral Spinal Meningitis	1	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	Nil	-	-
Infectious Hepatitis	7	-	-
Malaria	Nil	-	-
 Totals	 <u>104</u>	 <u>9</u>	 <u>1</u>

Compared with 1945, this shows a considerable reduction, when the total was 206. Measles, Scarlet Fever and Whooping Cough showed a marked decrease. The epidemic of measles was mostly during the early part of the year. It is gratifying to record only one case of Diphtheria and Puerperal Pyrexia respectively.

Tuberculosis. The following are the number of new cases notified during the year:-

Male Pulmonary	6
Female Pulmonary	5
Male Non-Pulmonary	Nil
Female Non-Pulmonary	1
Total	<u>12</u>

About the same total as last year, but differing in the fact that they were all (except one) pulmonary cases.

Diphtheria Immunisation. As far as I can ascertain, this is steadily being carried out. There was only one case of Diphtheria notified, and that proved fatal. Owing to the absence of Diphtheria in the District, there is a tendency to look upon it with a degree of complacency.

Scabies. Is not prevalent to any specially great extent. The special lotion (Benzyl Benzoate) as well as ointment is still being provided.

Venereal Disease. None has been brought to my notice. The Clinic at King's Lynn Hospital is always available.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

No action has been taken during the year under this Act, there being no factories, within the meaning of the Act, in the Council's District. A visit, however, was made to H.M. Flax Establishment, West Newton, for the purpose of analysing factory waste effluent which discharges into the Babingley River.

GENERAL REMARKS

The year 1946 has been a healthy one, with some diminution of infectious disease and no excessive epidemic of influenza. I consider steady progress has been made in the sanitation of the District, and a scheme for the improvement in this direction is in process of development. A scheme for the improvement of the water supply is also under consideration.

In conclusion I should like to acknowledge the valuable assistance of the Sanitary Inspector and the Assistant Sanitary Inspector, who have done some good work. I must also thank the first-named for the vital information he has given me in compiling this report.

O. L. APPLETON, L.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
Medical Officer of Health.

5th June, 1947.

Section C
(v) Schedule.

WATER SUPPLIES
FROM PUBLIC WATER MAINS

Parish	Supplied direct to houses		Supplied by standpipes	
	No. of houses supplied	Approximate Population	No. of houses supplied	Approximate Population
Bawsey	7	21	8	24
Castleacre	Nil	-	Nil	-
Castle Rising	25 *	75 *	57 *	171 *
Congham	Nil	-	Nil	-
Flitcham	65	195	30	90
Gayton	Nil	-	Nil	-
Grimston	Nil	-	Nil	-
Harphey	Nil	-	Nil	-
Hillington	40 *	120 *	14 *	42 *
Leziato	52	156	20	60
Great Massingham	23	69	195	585
Little Massingham	Nil	-	Nil	-
Middleton	Nil	-	Nil	-
Pontney	Nil	-	Nil	-
Roydon	Nil	-	Nil	-
North Runcton	Nil	-	Nil	-
Sandringham	150 *(approx.)	450 *	Nil	-
East Walton	Nil	-	Nil	-
Westacre	Nil	-	Nil	-
East Winch	Nil	-	Nil	-
West Winch	35 (approx.)	105	20	60
North Wootton	22	66	51	163
South Wootton	156	468	66	198
Totals	<u>575</u>	<u>1785</u>	<u>461</u>	<u>1383</u>
	(including 215 by private supply)	(including 645 by private supply)	(including 71 by private supply)	(including 213 by private supply)

* Private supplies
(supplied by the Castle Rising,
Hillington and Sandringham
Estates respectively).